United Nations S/2005/490

Security Council

Distr.: General
26 July 2005

Original: English

Letter dated 26 July 2005 from the Permanent Representatives of Australia, Canada and New Zealand to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

The Governments of Canada, Australia and New Zealand are deeply concerned at the growing humanitarian and human rights crisis in Zimbabwe.

The report of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General, Ms. Anna Tibaijuka, clearly documents the failure of the Government of Zimbabwe to protect its people. Operation Restore Order is described as a "disastrous venture", which has resulted in the dislocation of 700,000 people with 2.4 million affected. The vast majority of these are the poor and the disadvantaged. The Secretary-General has accordingly called recent events in Zimbabwe a "catastrophic injustice".

The United Nations report states that the Government of Zimbabwe is "collectively responsible" for this situation. The Government of Zimbabwe must take responsibility and take action, as a matter of urgency, based on the recommendations in the United Nations report. The reaction of the Government of Zimbabwe to the report gives us little confidence that it will do so. In response to the report, the Government of Zimbabwe has denied the crisis and its role in it as "negative publicity".

The linkage between humanitarian and human rights crises and peace and security is well-established. The United Nations report states there will be "far-reaching and long-term social, economic, political and institutional consequences". Even were immediate action to be taken, as outlined in the United Nations report, "it will take many years for the people and society as a whole to recover".

The United Nations has for too long been unable to take up the deteriorating situation in Zimbabwe. It is now at crisis point. We therefore call on the Security Council to be seized of the situation as a matter of urgency and to engage actively with the Government of Zimbabwe to bring an end to this situation. We support careful consideration of the report by the Council and hope that the Council will convene a meeting at its earliest opportunity to be briefed by the Secretary-General's Special Envoy.

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We would be grateful if you would circulate the present letter as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) H.E. Allan **Rock**
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Canada

(*Signed*) H.E. John **Dauth**
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Australia

(*Signed*) H.E. Rosemary **Banks**
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of New Zealand